

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 21, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1182**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Calderon**

February 22, 2005

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An act to amend Section 321.6 of, and to add Section 322.5 to, the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1182, as amended, Calderon. Public Utilities Commission: work plan access guide.

Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to develop, publish, and annually update an annual work plan access guide describing the scheduled ratemaking proceedings and other decisions that may be considered by the commission during the calendar year, and containing specific information regarding the ratemaking process and access to that process. Existing law requires the commission to develop a program to disseminate the information in the guide utilizing computer mailing lists to provide regular updates on the information to those members of the public and organizations which request that information.

This bill would rename the annual work plan access guide the annual work plan and would require the commission to post the annual work plan on its Internet Web site. The bill would require the commission to determine the feasibility of submitting ~~informal filings~~ *advice letters* to the commission through electronic means, as described, and if determined to be feasible, to ~~develop an~~

~~implementation plan for submitting informal filings~~ *propose a plan for submitting advice letters* by electronic means within 6 months.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) It is in the interest of the people of the state of California  
4 that the Public Utilities Commission refrain from requiring  
5 public utilities to deliver paper copies of information supplied to  
6 the commission when that information can be made available to  
7 the commission electronically.

8 (b) Allowing public utilities to make information requested by  
9 the commission available electronically will help decrease the  
10 costs of regulation by reducing the need to reproduce, on paper,  
11 one or more copies of reports and other information for use by  
12 the commission.

13 (c) It is in the interest of the state's economy that the  
14 businesses that fuel that economy be allowed to interact with  
15 government in the most efficient manner. Authorizing businesses  
16 to supply information requested by regulatory agencies via the  
17 Internet promotes that goal.

18 SEC. 2. Section 321.6 of the Public Utilities Code is amended  
19 to read:

20 321.6. The commission shall develop, publish, and annually  
21 update an annual work plan that describes in clear detail the  
22 scheduled ratemaking proceedings and other decisions that may  
23 be considered by the commission during the calendar year. The  
24 plan shall include, but is not limited to, information on how  
25 members of the public and ratepayers can gain access to the  
26 commission's ratemaking process and information regarding the  
27 specific matters to be decided. The plan shall also include  
28 information on the operation of the office of the public advisor  
29 and identify the names and telephone numbers of those contact  
30 persons responsible for specific cases and matters to be decided.  
31 The commission shall post the plan under the Official Documents  
32 area of its Internet Web site and shall develop a program to  
33 disseminate the information in the plan utilizing computer

1 mailing lists to provide regular updates on the information to  
2 those members of the public and organizations which request that  
3 information. The annual work plan shall be transmitted to the  
4 Legislature between January 15 and February 1 of each year.

5 SEC. 3. Section 322.5 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to  
6 read:

7 322.5. The commission shall determine, as part of the  
8 proceeding in Rulemaking 98-07-038 (Rulemaking for purposes  
9 of Revising General Order 96-A Regarding Informal Filings at  
10 the Commission) or any other appropriate proceeding, as  
11 determined by the commission, the feasibility of submitting  
12 ~~informal filings~~ *advice letters* to the commission through  
13 electronic means. If determined to be feasible, the commission  
14 shall, within six months, ~~develop an implementation plan for~~  
15 ~~submitting informal filings~~ *propose a plan for submitting advice*  
16 *letters* by electronic means. For purposes of this section,  
17 “electronic means” include electronic mail and electronic forms  
18 developed or approved by the commission and submitted through  
19 the commission’s Internet Web site.